

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 404

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding increasing the United States commitment to the health of the world's mothers and children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself and Mrs. MORELLA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding increasing the United States commitment to the health of the world's mothers and children.

Whereas 10 years ago at the World Summit for Children, the United States joined with 159 other governments to commit the world to supporting efforts that reduce infant and maternal mortality, child malnutrition, and illiteracy;

Whereas nearly 11,000,000 children die before the age of 5—30,500 children every day—due to preventable infectious diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, malaria, and malnutrition;

Whereas more than a quarter of the world's children are malnourished, which hinders their ability to learn and thrive;

Whereas over 500,000 women who die every year during pregnancy and childbirth could be saved by low-tech, low-cost interventions;

Whereas research has found that the health of children and their mothers is closely intertwined and good maternal health is essential for the survival of both mothers and children;

Whereas studies have shown that high maternal and child mortality are directly correlated with social and political instability;

Whereas the number of women of reproductive age in less developed countries will grow by 34 percent in the next 20 years, making the need to improve health care services for women and their children even more important;

Whereas past evidence has shown that programs to improve child survival do work, and that in the past decade, child survival programs of the United States Agency for International Development have significantly contributed to a 10-percent reduction in infant mortality rates worldwide;

Whereas research has shown that although the majority of maternal deaths during pregnancy and childbirth could be easily prevented, the number of women who die as mothers has not decreased in 10 years due to inadequate resources to address the problem;

Whereas although the world has been able to reduce maternal mortality in the developed world, the disparity in such mortality between the developed and developing countries continues to grow;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, the lifetime risk of dying from pregnancy-related complica-

tions or during childbirth in developing countries is 1 in 48 and in developed countries it is 1 in 1,800;

Whereas in some sub-Saharan African countries, the risk jumps still further: 1 in every 14 girls entering adolescence will die from maternal causes before completing her childbearing years; and

Whereas according to the World Health Organization report, between \$27,000,000,000 and \$38,000,000,000 will be needed in 2007 and 2015, respectively, to provide the necessary health interventions to those living in low-income countries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) child survival and maternal health programs
4 supported by the United States, particularly through
5 the Agency for International Development, have and
6 will make a difference in the lives of mothers and
7 children in the developing world;

8 (2) an increased commitment to improving the
9 health of the world's mothers and children will have
10 a long-term impact on the political, economic, and
11 social stability of developing countries;

12 (3) the United States should take a lead in im-
13 proving the lives of millions of mothers and children
14 in the developing world through targeted, effective,
15 and multifaceted health and development programs;
16 and

1 (4) the United States should increase its com-
2 mitment to the world's mothers and children by in-
3 creasing funding for basic child survival and mater-
4 nal health programs by at least \$500,000,000.

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